

NEWS RELEASE



***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney
Carol C. Lam***

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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - November 17, 2005

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced that Vicente Sanchez-Rosales, an attorney from Mexico City, was sentenced today by the Honorable William Q. Hayes to a custodial term of 68 months for importation of over 10 kilograms of pure methamphetamine and 4 kilograms of cocaine. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents believed the wholesale value of the drugs in San Diego County exceeded \$150,000.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Carlos Arguello, who prosecuted the case, on February 24, 2005, Sanchez-Rosales drove a 1998 Nissan Frontier to the San Ysidro Port of Entry. Hours earlier, an anonymous caller informed Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents that this car would be crossing into the United States with drugs hidden in a specially-built, electronically-controlled compartment. Once Sanchez-Rosales' car approached a primary booth at the Port of Entry, a Customs and Border Protection officer referred the car to the secondary inspection lot, where the drugs were ultimately found. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents thereafter obtained a search warrant for his residence and found over \$18,000 in cash and a drug ledger in his writing documenting past drug crossings.

DEFENDANT

Vicente Sanchez-Rosales

SUMMARY OF CHARGE

Title 21, United States Code, Section 952/960 (Importation of Methamphetamine and Cocaine)

Maximum Penalty: Life incarceration
 \$4,000,000 fine
 Five years of supervised release

INVESTIGATING AGENCIES

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
U.S. Customs and Border Protection